



THE LATEST NEWS FROM PERU March 2009

\$32 Million Waterfront Revitalization Project, Next International Surfing Hot-Spot, Three "New 7 Wonders of the World" Finalists, and New Volunteer Tourism Experiences...

Just a few of the new reasons why Peru is the fastest growing South American tourism destination

TRAVEL NEWS:

LAKE TITICACA, COLCA CANYON, AND AMAZONIA MAKE FINALS FOR THE "NEW 7 WONDERS OF THE WORLD"

Three top destinations in Peru are in the running to be part of the **"New 7 Wonders of the World"**. PromPeru, the official tourism authority, has been officially notified that **Lake Titicaca, Colca Canyon and Amazonia** have entered phase two of this international competition as of December 31, 2008.

260 natural locations have made it to the second phase of the competition, only 20 of which are in South America. The voting of the second phase will conclude on July 7, and the New 7 Natural Wonders of the World will be designated in 2011.
www.N7W.com

LIMA AIRPORT LOUNGE WINS WORLDWIDE ACCOLADE – 2009 PRIORITY PASS INTERNATIONAL LOUNGE OF THE YEAR

Priority Pass, the world's leading independent airport lounge program, announced that the SUMAQ VIP Lounge at the Jorge Chavez International Airport in Lima has been ranked 2009's International Lounge of the Year.

Over 16,000 airport lounges around the globe were considered for the 2009 awards, and **this marks the first occasion that the global Priority Pass award has been designated to an airport lounge outside the USA.**

This recognition reflects the excellent facilities and service for international leisure and business travelers in Peru's capital city airport, including state-of-the-art business facilities, world-class cuisine, spacious relaxation rooms, shower facilities, and outstanding personalized service.

The \$1.5 Million SUMAQ VIP lounge opened in 2005 and is operated by Inversiones Fisa S.A, a local Peruvian corporation.
http://www.lap.com.pe/lap_portal/ingles/index.asp

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PERU: THE NEXT HOTSPOT FOR INTERNATIONAL SURFING

Waves off the Peruvian coast are attracting top surfers from around the globe - making Peru one of the fastest up-and-coming hotspots on the international surfing scene.

Peru's diverse coast offers world-class surfing year-round for adventure enthusiasts. Breaks such as Punta Rocas south of Lima and Cabo Blanco to the north are part of the surfing world championship circuit. The central coast also features constant waves during winter (April to September), while the north coast sees heavy seas (or "crecidas") between October and March.

While boasting some of the world's greatest surfing conditions, there are only 12,000 surfers in Peru as compared to 700,000 in Brazil. With a constant set all year round and minimal trekking to the secluded local beaches, Peru can be considered a surfer's dream.

Additionally, recent discoveries show that Peru might have been the birthplace of surfing. Peruvian textiles and pottery dating back to pre-Hispanic civilizations (over 2,000 years ago), show evidence to riding the waves, challenging the claiming rights of Hawaiian locals.

LAN AIRLINES CELEBRATES 80 YEARS IN OPERATION

LAN Airlines announced the company's 80th anniversary. Eighty years ago, on March 5th, LAN began offering passengers and cargo clients stellar air transportation service.

To commemorate this important milestone, celebrations will take place throughout the year, including value packages for North American travelers to Peru.
www.lan.com

INCREASED ACCESSIBILITY TO MACHU PICCHU STARTING APRIL 2009

PeruRail will be creating a **new train route to Machu Picchu** starting on April 1, 2009, increasing the accessibility to the famous Peruvian archaeology attraction for visitors.

Departing from Poroy, just outside the Inka capital city of Cusco, the new route for the "Backpacker" train will lessen traffic which is a common issue, particularly during high season enroute to Machu Picchu.
http://www.perurail.com/web/tper/tper_a2a_home.jsp

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL GUITAR FESTIVAL

The International Guitar Festival celebrates its 20th anniversary in March at the Instituto Cultural Peruano Norteamericano Miraflores. This traditional event attracts musicians from around the globe, bringing together international Peruvian guitar legends and local up-and-coming talent.

This is just one of the many opportunities visitors have to experience Peru's rich talent and international leadership in the world of music and performing arts.
www.icpna.edu.pe

PACHACÁMAC – THE NEXT GREAT CULINARY TOURISM DESTINATION

While visitors come to experience Bon Appétit Magazine's Culinary Destination of the Year – Lima, Pachacámac, only 40 minutes south of Lima, is making headlines for its rich gastronomy on the local scene. Although this historic town may still be unknown to the common traveler, it is the next leading culinary destination bringing together organic Peruvian agriculture and gourmet cuisine.

Last July, local organic farmers, chefs, and environmental activists launched EcoGourmet, a one-day food fair that allows attendees to sample food that is made from the natural farming land. The fair was so successful that another was planned in October and a third fair in February 2009.

Chefs Oscar Velarde and Luis Alberto Sacilotto of the famous Lima restaurant *La Gloria*, also opened a new restaurant *La Gloria del Campo* in Pachacámac last October. The establishment boasts over four acres of organic gardens and was packed only 5 weeks after opening. Family-style picnic tables are matched with sophisticated pisco sours under a bamboo pavilion creating an original atmosphere while maintaining the purity of Lima's green valley.

NEW 5-STAR RESTAURANT OPENS IN PERU'S SACRED VALLEY

Wayra, a new 5-star restaurant at Hotel Sol y Luna in the Sacred Valley of the Incas, offers visitors a taste of Peru's finest culinary delights and artistic talents.

Wayra encompasses the many flavors of Peru, from the Federico Bauer paintings, to Jaime Liebana pieces, which represent local popular art. The Andean mountains and glaciers come together with the gastronomic talent of Pedro Miguel Schiaffino and Helger Selis who are inspired by the products of the valley and present a proposal of genuine flavors, with the scents that arise from the traditional firewood ovens or grills. To complement these flavors, the finest wines from their wine collection, directed by Jose Bracamonte, are available for guests.

Hotel Sol y Luna also boasts vibrant new lounge and showcases signature cocktails that put a modern twist on the country's traditional spirit, Pisco.

The Sacred Valley of the Incas now offers a spot to cater to travelers from sunny mid-days to magical nights.

http://www.metropolitan-touring.com/page_content.asp?id_page=902

SIX FISHING PIERS TO BE BUILT ON LAKE TITICACA

The regional government of Puno, through the Titicaca Trout Special Project (PETT), will invest **\$860,845** in the construction of six fishing piers on Lake Titicaca, which will greatly enhance the facilities for adventure enthusiasts and the local fishing community.

Not only will these developments improve the fishing conditions for visitors at Lake Titicaca, they will also **increase lake to table dining for travelers** interested in experiencing the local culinary wonders of Peru's highlands.

<http://www.laketiticaca.org/>

LIMA – A WORLD-CLASS DESTINATION FOR MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND CONVENTIONS

Boasting a solid infrastructure, affordability, and international accessibility, Lima is now a leading destination for global meetings, conventions, and events. Recent high profile events include **two World Summits – the 5th European Union-Latin America and Caribbean (EU-LAC) Summit and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum.**

Once known simply as the entry point to Peru, Lima has grown into a destination of its own with the addition of luxury accommodations, fine dining experiences, and a rich arts and culture scene.

Lima is easily accessible for domestic and international business travelers, strategically located a short distance from major North and South American cities. In 2007, Lima experienced a growth of 32% in its international flights in 2007, with a total of 124 new international routes. Coupled with over 240 weekly flights to the Americas, and daily direct flights to and from Madrid and Amsterdam, Lima is a hub for leading international corporations.

\$630,000 INVESTED IN CUMBEMAYO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

Authorities in the Peruvian department of Cajamarca will invest over \$630,000 in the promotion and recovery of the Cumbemayo archaeological site, a demonstration of pre-Incan hydraulic engineering.

Works include the construction of footpaths, canal cleaning, the restoration of areas in danger of deterioration, new signpostings, among other works, making this site more accessible to North American visitors interested in exploring Peru's ancient archaeology and history.

Discovered in 1937, this complex is surrounded by an interesting stone forest that seems to mimic the silhouettes of pious friars (for which it is popularly called "frailones" or giant friars).

In addition, the site features the Aqueduct (1000 B.C.), a unique work of hydraulic engineering, the Sanctuary, a cliff that looks like a giant human head, and the Caves, which include cave paintings and carvings.

<http://www.andina.com.pe/ingles/Noticia.aspx?id=GnkWhlmcVQs=>

NEW PROPERTY DEVELOPMENTS

\$32 MILLION REVITALIZATION PROJECT REVITALIZES LIMA'S GREEN COAST

A \$32 Million revitalization project, slated for completion in mid-2010, has commenced along Lima's 15 mile coastline, known as Costa Verde, bringing new life to the capital city's waterfront.

The rich beauty of the Pacific Coast, minutes from Lima's vibrant cosmopolitan center, will be enhanced with **walking trails, bike paths, a waterfront promenade, swimming pools, new shops and restaurants** as well as extensive recreational areas, offering visitors a wealth of attractions for year round entertainment.

CASA ANDINA TO INVEST \$10 MILLION IN BUDGET-FRIENDLY HOTEL PROJECTS

As part of its expansion plan in Peru, the Casa Andina hotel chain will **invest \$10 Million this year in three new hotel projects in various regions of the country in 2009.**

The first property will be located in the Limean district of Miraflores, the second will include the remodeling of San Jose ranch in Chincha (Ica), while the third project is still confidential.

The new three-star Casa Andina Classic hotel, to be built in Miraflores, is expected to open early 2010 and will offer a new option for North American travelers on a budget in one of the capital city's most vibrant and elite neighborhoods.

The average room cost per night will be \$90 and all rooms will have LCD screens, air conditioning, safe-deposit box, and direct-dial telephone. Other hotel attractions include a full service spa, state-of-the-art fitness facilities, a pool and local fusion cuisine.

The new hotel will also be targeted towards the corporate segment, offering a innovative business center, board room and meeting rooms with capacity for 40 people and parking for 36 cars.

Casa Andina currently has 11 Casa Andina Classic hotels (four and three stars) and six Casa Andina Private Collection (five star hotels) in eight different destinations of Peru.

<http://www.casa-andina.com/>

NOVOTEL HOTEL TO OPEN IN JUNE '09 WITH \$15 MILLION INVESTMENT

French hotel chain Accor will open a new four-star Novotel Hotel property, located in the Limean district of San Isidro, in June 2009.

The \$15 Million hotel was built in 18 months and includes 210 rooms, meeting rooms and spa facilities.

With its close proximity to Lima's financial center, the hotel is designed to attract international business travelers.

Accor is Europe's largest hotel group with some 3,700 hotels worldwide of which approximately 1,250 are situated in France and nearly 700 in other parts of Europe. Its other brands include Sofitel, Novotel, Mercure, Ibis and Etap.

<http://www.novotel.com/gb/home/index.shtml>

NEW TOURISM EXPERIENCES

PISCO VINEYARD TOURS IN AZPITIA

Azpitia is a peaceful escape one hour south of Lima in the province of Cañete, where visitors can enjoy the natural rural beauty of Peru, rich Pisco vineyards and local gastronomy.

Visitors can sample a wide variety of wines and spirits, tour renowned local wineries and distilleries and learn the art of craft distilling Peru's national drink, Pisco.

In September, Azpitia celebrates its **Pisco Festival**, where visitors can participate in the "stomping of the grapes" and obtain a personalized bottle of this grape-based spirit at reasonable prices directly from the producers.

NEW PUNO "MEN AND STONE TOUR" BRINGS VISITORS AND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

North Americans can become part of Peru's highland culture through a new community tourism experience called "Men and Stone." This tour takes travelers into local communities around the remote provinces of **Lampa** and **Melgar**, giving them an opportunity to **meet the local people, learn traditional art techniques, and visit rare stone monuments and craft workshops** in various towns.

The tour includes a visit to the traditional pottery village of **Pucara**, a town located in the Lampa province 107 km northeast of Puno, and the Stone Museum showcasing a collection of sculptures such as monoliths, steles and zoomorphic pieces, as well as ceramics and other traditional monuments representing the magical and religious spirit of the farmers.

The "Men and Stone" tour will also take tourists to the **Melgar** province at 12,820 ft. Some of its highlights include the towns of **Tarukani** and **Tinajani**, famous for their large number of endemic species and spectacular rock formations.

<http://www.andina.com.pe/ingles/Noticia.aspx?id=S4ssDnm+rTc=>

THE PLANETERRA FOUNDATION OFFERS "VOLUNTOURS" IN PERU

As the entire world grows into one global community and awareness rising, "voluntours" are becoming a new trend in tourism. Voluntours offer travelers a hands-on opportunity to make a direct and lasting contribution while experiencing true cultural immersion. The Planeterra Foundation is one of organizations that help tourists take in the incredible landscapes of Peru and learn what life is like in local communities.

The Planeterra Foundation is a non-profit organization with a long history of supporting sustainable community development through travel. By getting to know local people in the communities they visit, they are able to help identify individual needs and act quickly to meet them. Projects – from tourism training in Tanzania to women's weaving in Peru – offer travelers with a few hours, a few days or a few dollars to spare a unique opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the lives of people and communities around the world.

The Planeterra Foundation currently offers two voluntours in Peru:

Project Machu Picchu Voluntour: Experience what life is really like in the Peruvian Andes. Help out at home for street children in Cuzco. Play games, teach English, help with cooking and participate in jewelry making or leather working workshops. Continue on to the Sacred Valley, and spend two days in a rural community home to Inca Trail Porters and a Women's Weaving Cooperative developed and supported by Planeterra. Participate in the daily life of local families. Activities may include planting, maintaining or harvesting crops, learning to weave, building construction and visiting the local school. After volunteering, hike the ancient trail of the Incas. Local porters and guides ensure that the trip is worry-free. Fascinating ruins and spectacular mountain scenery fill every day of the hike. On the final day, climb the steps to Intipunku, the 'Sun Gate', to watch the sunrise over Machu Picchu.

Project Peru Voluntour: Make a difference! Travel to the northern Peruvian community of Cadmalca, to participate on this specially designed, independent volunteer tour. During our stay we will make a permanent improvement in the health, comfort and standard of living of people in Peru while experiencing the daily life, culture and lifestyle of people in this rural community. We hike to the home of our local host family and help build a Peruvian cooking stove with plenty of time to relax and explore. Benefits of the stove include the removal of smoke from the kitchen, a 50% decrease of wood usage and the reduction of eye and lung infections especially among women and children. No building experience is required.
<http://www.gapadventures.com/>

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www.peru.info**



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THE LATEST NEWS FROM PERU February 2009

**Bon Appétit's International Culinary Destination of the Year,
Discovery of two-3000 year-old temples, New Luxury Hotel Developments,
and Community-Based Tourism Experiences...**

**Just a few of the reasons why Peru is becoming the fastest growing South
American tourism destination**

TRAVEL NEWS:

Increased Accessibility to One of the World's Most Popular Destinations - Peru

Lima Airport Partners (LAP) recently announced it will invest \$31 Million in 2009 on projects to improve Jorge Chavez International Airport services for passengers and airlines. Additions include a new terminal, 19 passenger bridges, and improved customs areas among other projects.

Lima, Peru Named "Culinary Destination of the Year" by Bon Appetit Magazine

Bon Appétit recently named Lima, Peru its "Culinary Destination of the Year" in its January 2009 issue. With a fusion of cultures, diverse ingredients and ancient gastronomy traditions, Peruvian dishes combine inspirations spanning the globe from Spanish, African, Chinese, Japanese, and more. This mixture of flavors and textures is sparking trends around the world and enticing visitor's to experience it first hand in Peru, including reputable American chef, Todd English, who was quoted in New York Magazine claiming that "Peruvian food is the next big thing!"

Lima – A Sophisticated Cultural Destination

Once known simply as the entry point to Peru, Lima has grown into a destination of its own with the addition of luxury accommodations, fine dining experiences, and a rich arts and culture scene. Just one attraction for sophisticated travellers in 2009 is an exclusive exhibit at the renowned Museo de Arte Italiano de Lima featuring "From Myths to Dreams": works by Auguste Rodin, Salvador Dali, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Edgar Degas, Emile-Antoine Bourdelle, and Giorgio de Chirico.

New Discoveries in the World's Most Fascinating Archaeological Destination

Ancient tombs have recently been discovered in the district of Huaca Rajada in northern Peru. For example, in June 2008, Canadian archaeologist Steve Bourget made the discovery of a tomb containing the body of Lord of Ucupe, who is said to be leader of the Peruvian Moche culture.

This region of Peru is becoming one of the world's most fascinating archaeological destinations, unveiling new insight into the pre-Incan civilization of the Moche that governed north coast of Peru more than 1,700 years ago, from 100 AD to 800 AD. Visitors have the opportunities to not only visit a wealth of preserved ancient ruins, but participate in and view ongoing excavations revealing the footsteps of our ancestors.

Peruvian archaeologists have confirmed the discovery of **two 3,000-year-old temples in an ancient complex near the capital Lima**. The two structures formed part of a large ceremonial complex that belonged to the pre-Columbian Cupisnique culture.

The team discovered a monumental staircase 82 feet in width as well as a polychromatic relief with images of the spider god in the archaeological complex of Collud-Zarpan, located some 497 miles north of Lima. The discovery ranks as one of Peru's most important religious finds.

Community-Based Tourism Entices A New Group Of Travelers

Experiential tourism is a growing trend world-wide and Peru's many remote villages offer visitors the opportunity to truly become part of the family. **Community-based tourism programs coordinated by remote villages in the Andean Mountain and Peruvian Amazon** offer visitors the opportunity to stay in their homes, eat what they eat and live as they live, learning about their ancient and traditional customs firsthand.

Seattle-based nonprofit, travel agency, **Crooked Trails**, offers tours to Vicos as well as Peru's top tourist destination, Machu Picchu, for \$2,625 without airfare. Travelers are expected to do some light farm work - a small price to pay for waking up to a view of the snowcapped Andes.

Crooked Trails co-founder Christine Mackay says the homestay generates about \$265 per traveler for the family, a large sum that **helps the village pay for school supplies, cultural events and other development projects**.

Vicos is in Peru's Ancash region, the mountainous area north of Lima, 11,000 feet above sea level. It is a farming village of 5,000 people at the foot of Peru's Cordillera Blanca, or "White Mountain Range," the largest tropical glacier chain in the world.

NEW PROPERTY DEVELOPMENTS

Aranwa Sacred Valley Hotel & Wellness Opening March 2009

The Aranwa Sacred Valley Hotel & Wellness is a 5-star luxury hotel opening in March 2009. Guest accommodations include 100 rooms and 15 suites. In addition, the hotel features cultural experiences on property with a museum, library, handicraft exhibition room, art gallery, and organic crop area. The hotel's wellness aspect is highlighted by a full service spa and specially tailored programs for education and control of health conditions inclusive of hypertension (high blood pressure), weight, high cholesterol, and diabetes.

Located in Urumbamba, the Sacred Valley of the Incas, the hotel is approximately an hour and a half drive from the Incan capital of Cuzco and offers easy accessibility to one of the world's new 7 wonders, Machu Picchu. The altitude, however, is significantly lower than Cusco making it is easier for travelers to adjust as a first stop.

Orient Express Hotels Opens Luxury Lodge In The Colca Canyon

Orient-Express Hotels recently opened its luxury lodge, **Las Casitas del Colca**, in Peru's Colca Canyon in 2008. The eagerly awaited resort offers an enchanting retreat, giving visitors a unique opportunity to experience the beauty and tranquility of the Andes in a choice of their 20 lodges. It is situated on a 24 hectare estate strewn with wild cactus and fruit trees, watered by natural springs.

Guests are accommodated in 19 individual casitas and one suite, all sensitively designed to fit with their environment using natural, local materials. The floors of the casitas and terraces are made from Laja stone sourced from the nearby Arequipa region. Each casita has a private heated plunge pool on the outside terrace, WIFI internet access, under-floor heating and an indoor seating area with a working open fireplace.

At 10,725ft deep, the Colca Canyon is twice as deep as the US' Grand Canyon and runs a distance of over 62 miles. The Colca Canyon is reached by a three hour drive from Arequipa, passing through a National Nature Reserve and the alpaca inhabited foothills of the Chachani, Pichu Picchu and El Misti volcanoes.

Andean Experience Eco-Luxury Lodge Opens On Lake Titicaca

Andean Experience has opened its first exploration lodge and refuge on the spectacular shores of Lake Titicaca in May 2008. **Titilaka** is an 18-room luxury boutique hotel including a spa and suites all with lake views and indulgent bathrooms with heated floors.

The panoramic windows and wrap-around terraces outside the hotel suites allow for breath-taking scenes across the best Andean landscapes. In the spa guests can enjoy natural spa products with ingredients such as coca butter, essential oils from various local plants, fruits and trees. Local Andean gemstones are also used and these act as the ideal meditation stone thought to inspire and revive ancient wisdom after the Andean Hot Stone Massage.

The lodge offers guests a choice of two, three or four-day programs with a-la-carte excursions in Land Rovers, by boat, on the lodge's catamaran, on horseback or hiking. Daily activities in the area include nature and archaeology adventures, visits to the local communities, colonial churches and islands such as Taquile and perhaps most unique of all, the nearby man-made floating islands of the Uros people.

Lake Titicaca is the highest navigable lake in the world boasting diverse and exciting terrain for a whole host of activities and according to legend it is also the birthplace of Incan civilization.

NEW TOURISM PROGRAMS

New Addition To Luxury Amazon River Cruising

Delfin (Dolphin) Amazon Cruises, which operates deluxe river cruises in the Amazon, has begun the construction of its second vessel, the DELFIN II. The new luxury vessel will set sail in March 2009 and will have 14 suites complete with wide panoramic windows.

Delfin Amazon Cruises is also moving its operations from the city of Iquitos to Nauta, which will allow it to offer guests the opportunity to visit the heart of the Pacaya Samiria National Reserve.

The Pacaya Samiria National Reserve is one of the largest protected areas in Peru and is filled with rivers, lakes and palm swamps and becomes a flooded forest in the rainy season (December to May). In this area wildlife lovers would be in their element as it is expected to encounter wild Amazonian animals such as tanagers, toucans, macaws, parrots, egrets, hoatzins, herons, hummingbirds, brilliant blue morphos butterflies, red howler, tamarin, capuchin and squirrel monkeys, three-toed sloths, giant river otters, manatees and turtles. The primeval forest also boasts abundant flora, including a variety of orchids, untold species of plants and unique trees, like the giant ceiba.

Promperu Launches New Central Birding Route

Adding to the current variety of bird-watching treks in Peru, PromPeru has launched a new **Central Birding Route** in the country, opening the region for enthusiasts to view more fascinating endemic bird species in Peru. The new route is open year round, but in order to avoid the rainy season the best time to visit is from April until November.

The Central Birding Route is an experience filled with contrast. It begins in the coastal region of Lima, which includes wetlands and of course the Pacific Ocean. The main part is the central highway, with dramatic passes through the western Andes and mostly dry habitats. The route then descends down the eastern slope of the Andes, where the habitat is much more humid than the western side and ends in the breathtaking wet evergreen forest of the Amazon.

Peru is one of the top places in the world to spot rare and beautiful birds. It is a hotspot for bird lovers and even non-bird lovers will be fascinated by the feathered friends.



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PERU TOURISM FACT SHEET

Location:

Peru is located in the central western portion of South America. It covers 1.285 million square kilometers and is South America's third largest country, and the 20th largest nation in the world. Its total surface equals the combined areas of Portugal, Spain, France, Switzerland, Austria, Holland and Belgium. It borders to the north with Ecuador and Colombia, to the south with Chile and Bolivia, to the east with Brazil and to the west with the Pacific Ocean.

Time Zone:

GMT/UTC -5 (same as Eastern Standard Time in the US)

Capital:

Lima

Population:

Peru's population is approximately 28 million of which 72% live in the city and 28% in the countryside.

Languages:

Peru's many languages co-exist and are proof of the nation's diverse cultural heritage. Spanish and Quechua (the language of the Incas) are the nation's official languages although Spanish is much more widespread. Forty-nine other indigenous languages are also recognized by the Peruvian State. English is used widely by travel service providers.

Geography:

Peru is comprised of three major regions: The Coast, Andean Highlands and Amazon Jungle.

The Coast: Peru's coastal band is a long stretch along the western slopes of the Andes, a 2500 kilometer long strip bathed by the Pacific Ocean where deserts are interspersed with beautiful beaches and lush agricultural oases. Summer stretches from December to March when temperatures reach 27°C (80°F) on average, while winter (May to October) may fall to a mild 12°C (53°F). Although it rarely rains, mist and drizzle are usual in winter, especially in Lima. The sun shines 365 days a year over Peru's northern coastal tip, with temperatures reaching 35°C (95°F). The cities of Lima, Trujillo and Chiclayo as well as the Nasca Lines, Puerto Inca and Lagunas de Mejia National Sanctuary are in this region among other attractions.

The Highlands: The proper name for the Andes mountain range, the Highlands are made up by a mountain backbone that runs from south to north creating the Pacific-Amazon divide. Weather in the Highlands is dry and mild, with a well defined dry season (May to October) when days are sunny, nights chilly and rain scarce, making it the ideal time of the year for visiting. Dramatic temperature changes—with fluctuations ranging from 2°C (35°F) to 20°C (68°F) in one single day—are usual in the Highlands. The cities of Cajamarca, Huancayo and Cuzco as well as Machu Picchu, Chavin de Huantar and Ishinca Mountain are in this region among other attractions.

The Jungle: A region of lush tropical vegetation, the Peruvian Amazon area includes the nation's largest natural reserves. Its humid and tropical climate comprises two clear seasons, the dry (May to October) period when rivers flow low, days are sunny and temperatures exceed 30°C (86°F) and the rainy season (November to April) of frequent downpours and large river flows. The Jungle is home to more than 1,000 indigenous communities that have managed to preserve their traditional customs, traditions and languages. The cities of Iquitos, Pucallpa and Puerto Maldonado, as well as the Amazon River and the Manu National Park are in this region among other attractions.

Biodiversity

The Amazon jungle represents 60% of the territory in Peru.

84 of the 104 existing life zones in the world can be found in Peru.

15% of the territory is a nature protected area.

Peru is home to the 2 deepest canyons in the world, the Colca and the Cotahuasi, both in Arequipa.

Peru is a paradise for birdwatchers with the 2nd highest number of bird species in the world (1,810) of which 117 are endemic.

Peru is home to the Amazon River, the mightiest river in the world.

Gocta, the third highest waterfall in the world, is located in the Peruvian Amazonas region.

Peru has 3,000 types of orchids, and Inkaterra Resort in Machu Picchu has the largest concentration of orchid species in their natural climate world-wide.

Heritage:

Peru is home to 10 sites inscribed by UNESCO as World Heritage Sites: the Chan Chan Metropolis, Chavin of Huantar, the city of Cusco, Huascarán National Park, the city of Lima, Nazca Lines, Manu National Park, Machu Picchu Historical Sanctuary and the National Park Abiseo River.

Caral, Peru is also the oldest city in South America (the third oldest civilization in the world).

Cuisine:

Lima was recently recognized by Bon Appétit Magazine as the "Culinary Destination of the Year."

Over 40,000 restaurants across the country reflect the diversity of a nation that has mixed its native traditions with the cuisines of Europe, Arabia, China, Africa and Japan offering visitors unique flavors that make Peruvian cuisine one of the best and most varied in the world.

Peru boasts one of the most exquisite culinary offerings in Latin America. The cuisine is as flavorful and diverse as the country itself, utilizing ingredients from Peru's biodiversity and varied geography. Rare and varied spices, aromatic herbs, succulent fruit, fresh meat and seafood are among the elements that have helped to make Peruvian cuisine one of the most unique in the world.

One of the great secrets to Peruvian cooking is the ability to absorb the many different culinary traditions and to add a touch of Peru's own natural and cultural wealth.

Accommodations: Peru has over 7,068 properties offering 113,672 rooms.

Peru has 27 five-star hotels, 24 four-star hotels and more than 460 three-star hotels.

As an example of Peru's high quality accommodations, Hotel Monasterio in Cuzco was named "Best in South America" by *Conde Nast* Traveler's Readers' Choice Awards in 2005 and was listed on *Conde Nast* Traveler's 2009 "Gold List."

**Airports/
Accessibility:**

Peru has 36 airports equipped to receive commercial flights and 9 ready for international flights, including Lima and Iquitos.

19 airlines operate international flights to and from Peru including Copa, Continental, American Airlines, LanChile, LanPeru and Avianca, and 7 airlines offer domestic flights within the country.

American Airlines, LAN Airlines, and numerous regional airlines fly direct and non-stop from multiple US gateways.

Peru is 5 hour flight from Miami, and 8 from New York and Los Angeles.

Peru has 7 domestic airlines for internal commute.

Peru has recently invested over \$3.1 Million in renovations for its international airport in Lima, Peru.

Airport taxes: There is a US\$32 (about 105 PEN) airport tax that you must pay when leaving the country and a US\$6 (about 20 PEN) airport tax for all national flights.

Checking luggage: Please note that if you will be taking an international flight that has one or more connections within Peru, it will be necessary to collect any checked bags at the airport where you first arrive in the country. After proceeding through Customs, you will have to recheck your luggage before flying on to your final destination.

Passport/Visas: Visitors to Peru need a valid passport.

Visitors from North America do not need tourist visas.

More information is available from Peruvian diplomatic representatives in each country. Addresses and telephone numbers are available at the Peruvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs' web page www.rree.gob.pe

Customs: Visitors to Peru may bring with them a number of personal goods free of taxes, including clothing and accessories, a portable musical instrument, three liters of alcoholic beverages, and gifts for a maximum value of US\$3,000 and individual values not exceeding US\$100.

Sports gear for adventure tourism (hang-gliding, mountaineering, kayaking, fishing, scuba diving, water skiing, windsurfing and others) and scientific equipment for plant and animal life research are also allowed free of taxes into Peru.

Currency: Peru's national currency is the "nuevo sol (S/.)" divided into 100 cents. Coins worth 5, 10, 20 and 50 cents, and 1, 2 and 5 soles are in circulation, as well as 10, 20, 50, 100 and 200 nuevo sol bills.

Currency can be exchanged at all banks and exchange houses, and at most hotels, restaurants and shops. Major credit cards (Visa, Master Card, Diners and American Express) are accepted at most commercial establishments and ATMs are also available.

- Personal Funds:** It is best to bring a Visa or MasterCard credit card for withdrawing cash advances from automated teller machines (ATMs), which are readily available in Iquitos.
- Many businesses in Iquitos will also accept credit card payment. Alternatively, you can bring US dollars for exchange, but they MUST be in good condition without any tears or damage. The 100 dollar bills with a CB issue are not accepted.
- Communications:** Peru is served by a wide domestic and international network of private and pay phones. Country and city codes are posted on most telephone booths. For international calls dial 00 + country code + city code + telephone number. For local domestic long distance calls, dial 0 + city code + telephone number. Public (pay) phones accept coins and calling cards sold at kiosks and supermarkets. Directory service (in Spanish) is available by dialing 103.
- Internet:** Internet kiosks operate in most cities around Peru. Usually known as Internet cabins, they offer Internet connection for an average S/3.5(US\$1)/hour.
- Electricity:** 220 volts but most four/five star hotels also have installed 110 volt power outlets.
- Immunizations:** No specific immunization restrictions apply for visits to Peru. It is however advised to get a yellow fever vaccine 10 days before visiting certain Amazon rainforest areas. Visit www.cdc.gov/travel for more information.
- Information:** For more information about planning a visit to Peru, visit www.peru.info.

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For more information, please visit:
www.peru.info



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MAJOR EVENTS & CULTURAL FESTIVITIES

FEBRUARY – MAY 2009

FEBRUARY

Highlights:

Virgen de la Candelaria

Location: Puno

Date: February 1 - 14

Useful Information:

Climate: dry and cold.

Average temperature: 10°C (50°F). During 18 days the city of Puno, on the shores of lake Titicaca, becomes the folklore capital of the Americas.



Fiesta de la Candelaria, Puno
Archivo PromPerú

Description:

On the central day, the Virgin parades the city in a colorful procession, followed by more than 200 bands of musicians and a similar number of groups who dance around the city and compete for prizes in the local stadium. The festivity is related to the pre-Hispanic farming cycles of planting and harvesting (worshipping Pachamama or Mother Earth), as well as with the region's mining activity

How to Get There:

By plane: from Lima and Arequipa to Juliaca (Puno).

By train: Cusco - Puno train (10 h).

By road: from Cusco, Arequipa and Lima.

Carnivals

Location: All over Peru

Date: February / March

Peruvian carnivals are marked by the festive character of Andean areas, which regularly break with their solemn traditions.

Beyond regional variations, a common characteristic of nearly the entire highland chain is the ritual of the *yunza*, called *umisha* in the jungle and *cortamonte* on the coast. It involves artificially planting a tree trunk laden with gifts, around which the guests dance until it is chopped with a machete or an ax. The couple who make the final hack that brings down the tree will then both be in charge of organizing the *yunza* next year. Peruvians across the country are extremely fond of tossing buckets of water at each other during this festival, so onlookers would be wise to take precautions. Cities where carnivals reach a high point include Cajamarca, Puno and Ayacucho.



Carnivals, Cuzco
Mylene D'Auriol / PromPerú

Others Festivities:



Chachapoyan Carnival February – March

Province of Chachapoyas, Amazonas

It is a mixture of Celendinas and Chachapoyan customs. It is celebrated with the planting of "Humishas", large trees decorated with balloons, streamers, clothing, and other objects. In addition, there is a float contest, a carnival queen election, social and popular dancing, and games with water, streamers, and colors.



Carnival of Abancay and Apurimac February – March

Apurimac

During the celebrations, the *Pandillas* (folklore groups) show their colorful costumes and dance to the music. The carnival also features ceremonies in honor of the Pachamama (Mother Earth), the "Corte de la Yunsa" (the chopping of a tree full of presents to the rhythm of the music), and the Carnival of Tica-Pallana or flowers picking.



Carnival Festival of Camaná

February - March

Province of Camaná, District of San José, Arequipa

The guachanacos (masked riders) ride through the city streets three days before, inviting the population to join the carnival festivities. The "yunsa" or "cortamonte" festivity happens on the main day of the celebration. On that day, you can enjoy the wonderful dishes of this place.



Ayacucho Carnival

February - March

Ayacucho

For three days, enjoy the parade composed of marchers wearing traditional dress, regional music, food testing like the traditional puchero and chicha de jora.



Cajamarca Carnival

February - March (variable)

Province of Cajamarca, District of Cajamarca and its surrounding areas.

This is one of the most important celebrations in the department. Every neighborhood prepares itself for different contests like dance and music. The people organize a parade and accompany the Momo King, while other groups simultaneously dance and sing, spreading joy through the streets. The nights are the time to crown queens, to see popular dancing, and to taste traditional food and drink. This celebration lasts for one month with eight main days.



Negro Summer Festival

February

Province of Chíncha, District of El Carmen Ica

This is an Afro-Peruvian dance contest. There are also craft, wine and food fairs as well as main street parades.



Huanchaco Carnival February

Province of Trujillo, District of Huanchaco La Libertad

The Huanchaco Carnival originated at the beginning of the twentieth century, inspired by the Venice Carnival. The tradition was updated twenty years ago, and today the celebration includes the election of the Carnival Queen, floats, parades, people in costumes, carnival dances, and contests.



Toqto Fights 2nd February

*Province of Chumbivilcas, District of Livitaca
(Toctopata) Cusco*

These take place in Toqto, a town located between the Districts of Yanaoca and Livitaca. The fights last three days and represent the past when the people fought to receive more land. On the first day, people settle down in the place; the second day, one-on-one fights begin, and later, groups of five to ten men are formed. After eating and drinking, everyone fights on the third day, and when the games end, the wounded are taken care of and the communities perform the qhaswa (a party for both winners and losers)



Madre de Dios Carnival February (variable dates)

The entire department Madre de Dios

There are parades that move along the main streets of the city, marching contests, a beauty queen contest, and the election of Miss Manguare and King Momo.



Ucayali Carnival February – March

*Province of Coronel Portillo, Districts of Calleria and
Yarinacocha Ucayali*

There are dance contests around the humisha or cortamonte. A carnival queen is chosen, and there is a parade with traditional marching contests and floats.

MARCH

Highlights:

Wine Festival

Location: Ica

Date: March (2nd week)

This festival is a celebration of the abundance of grapes and wine in the region of Ica (a four-hour drive south of Lima), where persevering efforts in local vineyards have spread greenery across vast tracts of once bone-dry desert.



Grapes, Ica
Aníbal Solimano / PromPerú

The Wine Festival (Festival de la Vendimia) involves fairs, competitions, processions of floats, musical festivals and parties where guests dance the Afro-Peruvian festejo.

One of the major attractions of the event is the Queen of the Wine Festival beauty pageant. Accompanied by her hand-maidens, the beauty queen treads grapes in a vat in the time-honored tradition to extract the juice that will eventually be fermented. Apart from the delicious local sweets known as tejas, made from pecans or candied fruits, filled with caramel and covered with sugar icing, those attending the event can try pisco, the aromatic and tasty grape brandy that originated in this part of southern Peru four centuries ago.

Crosses of Porcon

Location: Granja Porcón, north of Cajamarca

Date: March - April

Useful Information:

Climate: dry and mild.

Average temperature: 14°C (57°F).

Description:

In this festivity, immense reed and palm crosses parade the Porcón valley. They are all decorated with oval and round mirrors (representing the souls of the dead) and with images of Virgin Mary, the Sacred Heart and several saints. On Palm Sunday, the central day, crosses are crowned, prayers are sung in Quechua and Latin, and people march in procession to church. During the procession, "angels" haul the "señorca", a female donkey representing the triumphal entrance of Jesus in Jerusalem. By road: Granja Porcón, 30 km / 19 miles (55 min) from Cajamarca. By the road to Bambamarca, take detour at km 20.



Crosses of Porcon, Cajamarca
Archivo PromPerú

How to Get There:

By road: Granja Porcón, 30 km / 19 miles (55 min) from Cajamarca

By the road to Bambamarca, take detour at km 20.

Easter Festival

Location: Ayacucho

Date: March - April

Useful Information:

Climate: mild.

Average temperature: 17°C (63°F).



Easter Week, Ayacucho
Domingo Giribaldi / PromPerú

Description:

With its 33 churches, Ayacucho presents on this date the most fervent Andean staging of the Way of the Cross, with several daily processions on the city's streets. At dawn Christ Resurrected leaves the cathedral, a moment that the faithful wait for after a night-long wake around bonfires they light in the Main Square to fight the cold. They all carry the Lord in joy on a wax portable altar.

How to Get There:

By plane: daily flights Lima - Ayacucho (45 min).

By road: Ayacucho, 500 km / 311 miles southeast of Lima, by Los Libertadores road.

Other Festivities:



Wine Grape Festival March

Provinces of Chincha and Ica

This is a celebration of the grape harvest and the wine making in the department. Fairs, contests, parades with floats, musical festivals, and parties are organized. The Wine Grape Queen is chosen, and she is the first to start crushing the grapes that make the wines, piscos, and other liquors.



Surfing Championship March

Province of Ascope, District of Chicama La Libertad

It takes place in Malabrigo Beach (also known as Chicama Beach) and surfers from all over the world participate. This beach is worldwide famous for the largest left handed wave in the world.



Saint Joseph Festival March

*Province of Trujillo, District of Moche, Las Delicias
Beach Resort La Libertad*

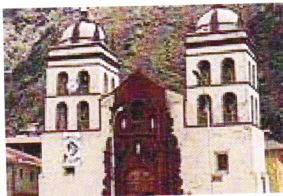
Emulating Spanish traditions, these festivities feature typical Spanish dishes and drinks, people dress up and the streets and houses are decorated in the Spanish style. Besides processions of Peruvian Paso horses, heifers freed like in Pamplona, a bull festival, and a bull fight, tascas (bars), tunas (musical groups), and tablaos (Flemish dances) are organized.



Wine Grape Harvest Festival March

Lima

This takes place in the traditional district of Santiago de Surco and includes activities like the election of a Harvest Queen and visits to wineries for wine-testing sessions.



Holy Week March – April

*Province of Huancavelica, District of Huancavelica
Huancavelica*

The celebration begins with the procession of the Sorrowful Virgin on Friday followed by the Palm Sunday mass and massive nightly processions for personal reflection.



Easter in Ica March - April

Ica

This festival starts on Palm Sunday with the procession of the Lord of the Triumph and ends with the resurrection procession, also known as "The Drunken Procession". The streets are decorated with flower carpets and triumphal arches.



Holy Week

March - April (variable date)

Province of Tarma and Valle del Mantaro. Junín

During this celebration week, the communities create flower carpets that cover the city streets and organize liturgical ceremonies and processions with Andean characteristics



Holy Week - Expo Oxa

March - April (variable date)

Province of Oxapampa Pasco

Holy Week is the time chosen by the descendents of the Austrian-German settlers to organize parties with samples of food and dances brought over from Europe at the beginning of the twentieth century. Additionally, farming and handcrafted product exhibitions take place as well as drawing and painting competitions.

APRIL

Highlights:

Peruvian Paso Horse Festival

Location: Lima

Date: April - May

Useful Information:

Location: Mamacona, district of Pachacámac (75 masl / 246 fasl).

Climate: humid and warm.

Average temperature: 19°C (66°F)

Description:

The contest takes place in Mamacona, at the foot of the pre-Inca Pachacamac oracle. The Peruvian Paso horse is a breed of Spanish and Berber races that took 300 years. Its gait is a series of synchronized movements of the front and rear legs in parallel fashion, a trait that has made it one of the most beautiful and elegant horses in the world.

How to Get There:

By road: Pachacámac, 30 km / 19 miles south of Lima, in the detour to Lurín, south highway.

Other Festivities:



Anniversary of the Constitutional Province of Callao **April 22nd**

On this date, the people commemorate the naming of Callao as a Constitutional Province in 1857. A series of activities like tourist rides, a painting contest, historical expositions, Te Deum Mass, civic-patriotic ceremonies, parades, and many others take place in order to celebrate this anniversary.



Anniversary of the Founding of the city of Huamanga **April 25th**

Province of Huamanga, District of Ayacucho

Cultural activities, sporting events, contests, handicrafts expositions, and testing of typical dishes are featured.

MAY

Highlights:

Virgen de Chapi

Location: Arequipa Region

Date: May 1

Useful Information:

Climate: dry and semi-cold.

Average temperature: 14°C (57°F).

Description:

Pilgrimage crossing the Arequipa desert to worship the Virgin of Purification or Virgin of Chapi. The pilgrims carry rocks of different sizes they will leave before Chapi, making the so-called apachetas, symbolizing the devout's sins. In a night-long wake, the image of the miraculous Virgin is surrounded by candles to then leave in procession. There are also fireworks and typical foods.

How To Get There:

By road: Chapi, 76 km / 47 miles southeast of Arequipa. There is bus access, but some pilgrims prefer to go on foot (1 hour walk approx.)

Lord of Muruhuay

Location: Junín Region

Date: May

Useful Information:

Location: Shalacoto hill (2959 masl / 9708 fasl),
Acobamba,
12 km from Tarma.
Climate: mild.
Average temperature: 14°C (57°F).



Chonginada, Junín
Aníbal Solimano / PromPerú

Description:

The image of the Crucified Lord, painted on the skirts of the Shalacoto hill, is worshipped on this date by thousands of pilgrims. Some old rites to worship water, earth and rocks have survived in this celebration. On the central day a solemn Mass is celebrated in Quechua and then the believers drop their "Letter to God", requesting miracles or thanking favors granted. The organizers usually offer a typical lunch to visitors and dancers.

How to Get There:

By road: by the Central Highway following the Lima - Tíclio - Huancayo route (310 km / 193 miles), in 5:30 h.

Other Festivities:



Festival of the Crosses

May

Province of Pasco and Daniel A. Carrion Pasco

A religious festival dating back to the Vice Royal Period organized by the so-called Majordomos (masters of ceremonies in charge of organizing and managing the feast). People go out on the streets performing old dances like the Chunguinada, the Baile Viejo or the Negreria.



Festival of the Crosses and Avocado Festival

May 3

Province of Huanta, District of Luricocha. Ayacucho

This celebration is very distinctive since hundreds of people from towns all over the Andes and the jungle show up carrying crosses of differing sizes and weights. The people carry their crosses and participate in a race around the perimeter of the Main Square of Luricocha (beginning and ending at the church). The area is also famous for its 42 different species of avocados.



THE LATEST NEWS FROM PERU March 2009

\$32 Million Waterfront Revitalization Project, Next International Surfing Hot-Spot, Three "New 7 Wonders of the World" Finalists, and New Volunteer Tourism Experiences...

Just a few of the new reasons why Peru is the fastest growing South American tourism destination

TRAVEL NEWS:

LAKE TITICACA, COLCA CANYON, AND AMAZONIA MAKE FINALS FOR THE "NEW 7 WONDERS OF THE WORLD"

Three top destinations in Peru are in the running to be part of the **"New 7 Wonders of the World"**. PromPeru, the official tourism authority, has been officially notified that **Lake Titicaca, Colca Canyon and Amazonia** have entered phase two of this international competition as of December 31, 2008.

260 natural locations have made it to the second phase of the competition, only 20 of which are in South America. The voting of the second phase will conclude on July 7, and the New 7 Natural Wonders of the World will be designated in 2011.
www.N7W.com

LIMA AIRPORT LOUNGE WINS WORLDWIDE ACCOLADE – 2009 PRIORITY PASS INTERNATIONAL LOUNGE OF THE YEAR

Priority Pass, the world's leading independent airport lounge program, announced that the SUMAQ VIP Lounge at the Jorge Chavez International Airport in Lima has been ranked 2009's International Lounge of the Year.

Over 16,000 airport lounges around the globe were considered for the 2009 awards, and **this marks the first occasion that the global Priority Pass award has been designated to an airport lounge outside the USA.**

This recognition reflects the excellent facilities and service for international leisure and business travelers in Peru's capital city airport, including state-of-the-art business facilities, world-class cuisine, spacious relaxation rooms, shower facilities, and outstanding personalized service.

The \$1.5 Million SUMAQ VIP lounge opened in 2005 and is operated by Inversiones Fisa S.A, a local Peruvian corporation.
http://www.lap.com.pe/lap_portal/ingles/index.asp

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PERU: THE NEXT HOTSPOT FOR INTERNATIONAL SURFING

Waves off the Peruvian coast are attracting top surfers from around the globe - making Peru one of the fastest up-and-coming hotspots on the international surfing scene.

Peru's diverse coast offers world-class surfing year-round for adventure enthusiasts. Breaks such as Punta Rocas south of Lima and Cabo Blanco to the north are part of the surfing world championship circuit. The central coast also features constant waves during winter (April to September), while the north coast sees heavy seas (or "crecidas") between October and March.

While boasting some of the world's greatest surfing conditions, there are only 12,000 surfers in Peru as compared to 700,000 in Brazil. With a constant set all year round and minimal trekking to the secluded local beaches, Peru can be considered a surfer's dream.

Additionally, recent discoveries show that Peru might have been the birthplace of surfing. Peruvian textiles and pottery dating back to pre-Hispanic civilizations (over 2,000 years ago), show evidence to riding the waves, challenging the claiming rights of Hawaiian locals.

LAN AIRLINES CELEBRATES 80 YEARS IN OPERATION

LAN Airlines announced the company's 80th anniversary. Eighty years ago, on March 5th, LAN began offering passengers and cargo clients stellar air transportation service.

To commemorate this important milestone, celebrations will take place throughout the year, including value packages for North American travelers to Peru.
www.lan.com

INCREASED ACCESSIBILITY TO MACHU PICCHU STARTING APRIL 2009

PeruRail will be creating a **new train route to Machu Picchu** starting on April 1, 2009, increasing the accessibility to the famous Peruvian archaeology attraction for visitors.

Departing from Poroy, just outside the Inka capital city of Cusco, the new route for the "Backpacker" train will lessen traffic which is a common issue, particularly during high season enroute to Machu Picchu.
http://www.perurail.com/web/tper/tper_a2a_home.jsp

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL GUITAR FESTIVAL

The International Guitar Festival celebrates its 20th anniversary in March at the Instituto Cultural Peruano Norteamericano Miraflores. This traditional event attracts musicians from around the globe, bringing together international Peruvian guitar legends and local up-and-coming talent.

This is just one of the many opportunities visitors have to experience Peru's rich talent and international leadership in the world of music and performing arts.
www.icpna.edu.pe

PACHACÁMAC – THE NEXT GREAT CULINARY TOURISM DESTINATION

While visitors come to experience Bon Appétit Magazine's Culinary Destination of the Year – Lima, Pachacámac, only 40 minutes south of Lima, is making headlines for its rich gastronomy on the local scene. Although this historic town may still be unknown to the common traveler, it is the next leading culinary destination bringing together organic Peruvian agriculture and gourmet cuisine.

Last July, local organic farmers, chefs, and environmental activists launched EcoGourmet, a one-day food fair that allows attendees to sample food that is made from the natural farming land. The fair was so successful that another was planned in October and a third fair in February 2009.

Chefs Oscar Velarde and Luis Alberto Sacilotto of the famous Lima restaurant *La Gloria*, also opened a new restaurant *La Gloria del Campo* in Pachacámac last October. The establishment boasts over four acres of organic gardens and was packed only 5 weeks after opening. Family-style picnic tables are matched with sophisticated pisco sours under a bamboo pavilion creating an original atmosphere while maintaining the purity of Lima's green valley.

NEW 5-STAR RESTAURANT OPENS IN PERU'S SACRED VALLEY

Wayra, a new 5-star restaurant at Hotel Sol y Luna in the Sacred Valley of the Incas, offers visitors a taste of Peru's finest culinary delights and artistic talents.

Wayra encompasses the many flavors of Peru, from the Federico Bauer paintings, to Jaime Liebana pieces, which represent local popular art. The Andean mountains and glaciers come together with the gastronomic talent of Pedro Miguel Schiaffino and Helger Selis who are inspired by the products of the valley and present a proposal of genuine flavors, with the scents that arise from the traditional firewood ovens or grills. To complement these flavors, the finest wines from their wine collection, directed by Jose Bracamonte, are available for guests.

Hotel Sol y Luna also boasts vibrant new lounge and showcases signature cocktails that put a modern twist on the country's traditional spirit, Pisco.

The Sacred Valley of the Incas now offers a spot to cater to travelers from sunny mid-days to magical nights.

http://www.metropolitan-touring.com/page_content.asp?id_page=902

SIX FISHING PIERS TO BE BUILT ON LAKE TITICACA

The regional government of Puno, through the Titicaca Trout Special Project (PETT), will invest **\$860,845** in the construction of six fishing piers on Lake Titicaca, which will greatly enhance the facilities for adventure enthusiasts and the local fishing community.

Not only will these developments improve the fishing conditions for visitors at Lake Titicaca, they will also **increase lake to table dining for travelers** interested in experiencing the local culinary wonders of Peru's highlands.

<http://www.laketiticaca.org/>

LIMA – A WORLD-CLASS DESTINATION FOR MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND CONVENTIONS

Boasting a solid infrastructure, affordability, and international accessibility, Lima is now a leading destination for global meetings, conventions, and events. Recent high profile events include **two World Summits – the 5th European Union-Latin America and Caribbean (EU-LAC) Summit and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum.**

Once known simply as the entry point to Peru, Lima has grown into a destination of its own with the addition of luxury accommodations, fine dining experiences, and a rich arts and culture scene.

Lima is easily accessible for domestic and international business travelers, strategically located a short distance from major North and South American cities. In 2007, Lima experienced a growth of 32% in its international flights in 2007, with a total of 124 new international routes. Coupled with over 240 weekly flights to the Americas, and daily direct flights to and from Madrid and Amsterdam, Lima is a hub for leading international corporations.

\$630,000 INVESTED IN CUMBEMAYO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

Authorities in the Peruvian department of Cajamarca will invest over \$630,000 in the promotion and recovery of the Cumbemayo archaeological site, a demonstration of pre-Incan hydraulic engineering.

Works include the construction of footpaths, canal cleaning, the restoration of areas in danger of deterioration, new signpostings, among other works, making this site more accessible to North American visitors interested in exploring Peru's ancient archaeology and history.

Discovered in 1937, this complex is surrounded by an interesting stone forest that seems to mimic the silhouettes of pious friars (for which it is popularly called "frailones" or giant friars).

In addition, the site features the Aqueduct (1000 B.C.), a unique work of hydraulic engineering, the Sanctuary, a cliff that looks like a giant human head, and the Caves, which include cave paintings and carvings.

<http://www.andina.com.pe/ingles/Noticia.aspx?id=GnkWhlmcVQs=>

NEW PROPERTY DEVELOPMENTS

\$32 MILLION REVITALIZATION PROJECT REVITALIZES LIMA'S GREEN COAST

A \$32 Million revitalization project, slated for completion in mid-2010, has commenced along Lima's 15 mile coastline, known as Costa Verde, bringing new life to the capital city's waterfront.

The rich beauty of the Pacific Coast, minutes from Lima's vibrant cosmopolitan center, will be enhanced with **walking trails, bike paths, a waterfront promenade, swimming pools, new shops and restaurants** as well as extensive recreational areas, offering visitors a wealth of attractions for year round entertainment.

CASA ANDINA TO INVEST \$10 MILLION IN BUDGET-FRIENDLY HOTEL PROJECTS

As part of its expansion plan in Peru, the Casa Andina hotel chain will **invest \$10 Million this year in three new hotel projects in various regions of the country in 2009.**

The first property will be located in the Limean district of Miraflores, the second will include the remodeling of San Jose ranch in Chincha (Ica), while the third project is still confidential.

The new three-star Casa Andina Classic hotel, to be built in Miraflores, is expected to open early 2010 and will offer a new option for North American travelers on a budget in one of the capital city's most vibrant and elite neighborhoods.

The average room cost per night will be \$90 and all rooms will have LCD screens, air conditioning, safe-deposit box, and direct-dial telephone. Other hotel attractions include a full service spa, state-of-the-art fitness facilities, a pool and local fusion cuisine.

The new hotel will also be targeted towards the corporate segment, offering a innovative business center, board room and meeting rooms with capacity for 40 people and parking for 36 cars.

Casa Andina currently has 11 Casa Andina Classic hotels (four and three stars) and six Casa Andina Private Collection (five star hotels) in eight different destinations of Peru.

<http://www.casa-andina.com/>

NOVOTEL HOTEL TO OPEN IN JUNE '09 WITH \$15 MILLION INVESTMENT

French hotel chain Accor will open a new four-star Novotel Hotel property, located in the Limean district of San Isidro, in June 2009.

The \$15 Million hotel was built in 18 months and includes 210 rooms, meeting rooms and spa facilities.

With its close proximity to Lima's financial center, the hotel is designed to attract international business travelers.

Accor is Europe's largest hotel group with some 3,700 hotels worldwide of which approximately 1,250 are situated in France and nearly 700 in other parts of Europe. Its other brands include Sofitel, Novotel, Mercure, Ibis and Etap.

<http://www.novotel.com/gb/home/index.shtml>

NEW TOURISM EXPERIENCES

PISCO VINEYARD TOURS IN AZPITIA

Azpitia is a peaceful escape one hour south of Lima in the province of Cañete, where visitors can enjoy the natural rural beauty of Peru, rich Pisco vineyards and local gastronomy.

Visitors can sample a wide variety of wines and spirits, tour renowned local wineries and distilleries and learn the art of craft distilling Peru's national drink, Pisco.

In September, Azpitia celebrates its **Pisco Festival**, where visitors can participate in the "stomping of the grapes" and obtain a personalized bottle of this grape-based spirit at reasonable prices directly from the producers.

NEW PUNO "MEN AND STONE TOUR" BRINGS VISITORS AND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

North Americans can become part of Peru's highland culture through a new community tourism experience called "Men and Stone." This tour takes travelers into local communities around the remote provinces of **Lampa** and **Melgar**, giving them an opportunity to **meet the local people, learn traditional art techniques, and visit rare stone monuments and craft workshops** in various towns.

The tour includes a visit to the traditional pottery village of **Pucara**, a town located in the Lampa province 107 km northeast of Puno, and the Stone Museum showcasing a collection of sculptures such as monoliths, steles and zoomorphic pieces, as well as ceramics and other traditional monuments representing the magical and religious spirit of the farmers.

The "Men and Stone" tour will also take tourists to the **Melgar** province at 12,820 ft. Some of its highlights include the towns of **Tarukani** and **Tinajani**, famous for their large number of endemic species and spectacular rock formations.

<http://www.andina.com.pe/ingles/Noticia.aspx?id=S4ssDnm+rTc=>

THE PLANETERRA FOUNDATION OFFERS "VOLUNTOURS" IN PERU

As the entire world grows into one global community and awareness rising, "voluntours" are becoming a new trend in tourism. Voluntours offer travelers a hands-on opportunity to make a direct and lasting contribution while experiencing true cultural immersion. The Planeterra Foundation is one of organizations that help tourists take in the incredible landscapes of Peru and learn what life is like in local communities.

The Planeterra Foundation is a non-profit organization with a long history of supporting sustainable community development through travel. By getting to know local people in the communities they visit, they are able to help identify individual needs and act quickly to meet them. Projects – from tourism training in Tanzania to women's weaving in Peru – offer travelers with a few hours, a few days or a few dollars to spare a unique opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the lives of people and communities around the world.

The Planeterra Foundation currently offers two voluntours in Peru:

Project Machu Picchu Voluntour: Experience what life is really like in the Peruvian Andes. Help out at home for street children in Cuzco. Play games, teach English, help with cooking and participate in jewelry making or leather working workshops. Continue on to the Sacred Valley, and spend two days in a rural community home to Inca Trail Porters and a Women's Weaving Cooperative developed and supported by Planeterra. Participate in the daily life of local families. Activities may include planting, maintaining or harvesting crops, learning to weave, building construction and visiting the local school. After volunteering, hike the ancient trail of the Incas. Local porters and guides ensure that the trip is worry-free. Fascinating ruins and spectacular mountain scenery fill every day of the hike. On the final day, climb the steps to Intipunku, the 'Sun Gate', to watch the sunrise over Machu Picchu.

Project Peru Voluntour: Make a difference! Travel to the northern Peruvian community of Cadmalca, to participate on this specially designed, independent volunteer tour. During our stay we will make a permanent improvement in the health, comfort and standard of living of people in Peru while experiencing the daily life, culture and lifestyle of people in this rural community. We hike to the home of our local host family and help build a Peruvian cooking stove with plenty of time to relax and explore. Benefits of the stove include the removal of smoke from the kitchen, a 50% decrease of wood usage and the reduction of eye and lung infections especially among women and children. No building experience is required.
<http://www.gapadventures.com/>

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THE LATEST NEWS FROM PERU February 2009

**Bon Appétit's International Culinary Destination of the Year,
Discovery of two-3000 year-old temples, New Luxury Hotel Developments,
and Community-Based Tourism Experiences...**

**Just a few of the reasons why Peru is becoming the fastest growing South
American tourism destination**

TRAVEL NEWS:

Increased Accessibility to One of the World's Most Popular Destinations - Peru

Lima Airport Partners (LAP) recently announced it will invest \$31 Million in 2009 on projects to improve Jorge Chavez International Airport services for passengers and airlines. Additions include a new terminal, 19 passenger bridges, and improved customs areas among other projects.

Lima, Peru Named "Culinary Destination of the Year" by Bon Appetit Magazine

Bon Appétit recently named Lima, Peru its "Culinary Destination of the Year" in its January 2009 issue. With a fusion of cultures, diverse ingredients and ancient gastronomy traditions, Peruvian dishes combine inspirations spanning the globe from Spanish, African, Chinese, Japanese, and more. This mixture of flavors and textures is sparking trends around the world and enticing visitor's to experience it first hand in Peru, including reputable American chef, Todd English, who was quoted in New York Magazine claiming that "Peruvian food is the next big thing!"

Lima – A Sophisticated Cultural Destination

Once known simply as the entry point to Peru, Lima has grown into a destination of its own with the addition of luxury accommodations, fine dining experiences, and a rich arts and culture scene. Just one attraction for sophisticated travellers in 2009 is an exclusive exhibit at the renowned Museo de Arte Italiano de Lima featuring "From Myths to Dreams": works by Auguste Rodin, Salvador Dali, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Edgar Degas, Emile-Antoine Bourdelle, and Giorgio de Chirico.

New Discoveries in the World's Most Fascinating Archaeological Destination

Ancient tombs have recently been discovered in the district of Huaca Rajada in northern Peru. For example, in June 2008, Canadian archaeologist Steve Bourget made the discovery of a tomb containing the body of Lord of Ucupe, who is said to be leader of the Peruvian Moche culture.

This region of Peru is becoming one of the world's most fascinating archaeological destinations, unveiling new insight into the pre-Incan civilization of the Moche that governed north coast of Peru more than 1,700 years ago, from 100 AD to 800 AD. Visitors have the opportunities to not only visit a wealth of preserved ancient ruins, but participate in and view ongoing excavations revealing the footsteps of our ancestors.

Peruvian archaeologists have confirmed the discovery of **two 3,000-year-old temples in an ancient complex near the capital Lima**. The two structures formed part of a large ceremonial complex that belonged to the pre-Columbian Cupisnique culture.

The team discovered a monumental staircase 82 feet in width as well as a polychromatic relief with images of the spider god in the archaeological complex of Collud-Zarpan, located some 497 miles north of Lima. The discovery ranks as one of Peru's most important religious finds.

Community-Based Tourism Entices A New Group Of Travelers

Experiential tourism is a growing trend world-wide and Peru's many remote villages offer visitors the opportunity to truly become part of the family. **Community-based tourism programs coordinated by remote villages in the Andean Mountain and Peruvian Amazon** offer visitors the opportunity to stay in their homes, eat what they eat and live as they live, learning about their ancient and traditional customs firsthand.

Seattle-based nonprofit, travel agency, **Crooked Trails**, offers tours to Vicos as well as Peru's top tourist destination, Machu Picchu, for \$2,625 without airfare. Travelers are expected to do some light farm work - a small price to pay for waking up to a view of the snowcapped Andes.

Crooked Trails co-founder Christine Mackay says the homestay generates about \$265 per traveler for the family, a large sum that **helps the village pay for school supplies, cultural events and other development projects**.

Vicos is in Peru's Ancash region, the mountainous area north of Lima, 11,000 feet above sea level. It is a farming village of 5,000 people at the foot of Peru's Cordillera Blanca, or "White Mountain Range," the largest tropical glacier chain in the world.

NEW PROPERTY DEVELOPMENTS

Aranwa Sacred Valley Hotel & Wellness Opening March 2009

The Aranwa Sacred Valley Hotel & Wellness is a 5-star luxury hotel opening in March 2009. Guest accommodations include 100 rooms and 15 suites. In addition, the hotel features cultural experiences on property with a museum, library, handicraft exhibition room, art gallery, and organic crop area. The hotel's wellness aspect is highlighted by a full service spa and specially tailored programs for education and control of health conditions inclusive of hypertension (high blood pressure), weight, high cholesterol, and diabetes.

Located in Urumbamba, the Sacred Valley of the Incas, the hotel is approximately an hour and a half drive from the Incan capital of Cuzco and offers easy accessibility to one of the world's new 7 wonders, Machu Picchu. The altitude, however, is significantly lower than Cusco making it is easier for travelers to adjust as a first stop.

Orient Express Hotels Opens Luxury Lodge In The Colca Canyon

Orient-Express Hotels recently opened its luxury lodge, **Las Casitas del Colca**, in Peru's Colca Canyon in 2008. The eagerly awaited resort offers an enchanting retreat, giving visitors a unique opportunity to experience the beauty and tranquility of the Andes in a choice of their 20 lodges. It is situated on a 24 hectare estate strewn with wild cactus and fruit trees, watered by natural springs.

Guests are accommodated in 19 individual casitas and one suite, all sensitively designed to fit with their environment using natural, local materials. The floors of the casitas and terraces are made from Laja stone sourced from the nearby Arequipa region. Each casita has a private heated plunge pool on the outside terrace, WIFI internet access, under-floor heating and an indoor seating area with a working open fireplace.

At 10,725ft deep, the Colca Canyon is twice as deep as the US' Grand Canyon and runs a distance of over 62 miles. The Colca Canyon is reached by a three hour drive from Arequipa, passing through a National Nature Reserve and the alpaca inhabited foothills of the Chachani, Pichu Picchu and El Misti volcanoes.

Andean Experience Eco-Luxury Lodge Opens On Lake Titicaca

Andean Experience has opened its first exploration lodge and refuge on the spectacular shores of Lake Titicaca in May 2008. **Titilaka** is an 18-room luxury boutique hotel including a spa and suites all with lake views and indulgent bathrooms with heated floors.

The panoramic windows and wrap-around terraces outside the hotel suites allow for breath-taking scenes across the best Andean landscapes. In the spa guests can enjoy natural spa products with ingredients such as coca butter, essential oils from various local plants, fruits and trees. Local Andean gemstones are also used and these act as the ideal meditation stone thought to inspire and revive ancient wisdom after the Andean Hot Stone Massage.

The lodge offers guests a choice of two, three or four-day programs with a-la-carte excursions in Land Rovers, by boat, on the lodge's catamaran, on horseback or hiking. Daily activities in the area include nature and archaeology adventures, visits to the local communities, colonial churches and islands such as Taquile and perhaps most unique of all, the nearby man-made floating islands of the Uros people.

Lake Titicaca is the highest navigable lake in the world boasting diverse and exciting terrain for a whole host of activities and according to legend it is also the birthplace of Incan civilization.

NEW TOURISM PROGRAMS

New Addition To Luxury Amazon River Cruising

Delfin (Dolphin) Amazon Cruises, which operates deluxe river cruises in the Amazon, has begun the construction of its second vessel, the DELFIN II. The new luxury vessel will set sail in March 2009 and will have 14 suites complete with wide panoramic windows.

Delfin Amazon Cruises is also moving its operations from the city of Iquitos to Nauta, which will allow it to offer guests the opportunity to visit the heart of the Pacaya Samiria National Reserve.

The Pacaya Samiria National Reserve is one of the largest protected areas in Peru and is filled with rivers, lakes and palm swamps and becomes a flooded forest in the rainy season (December to May). In this area wildlife lovers would be in their element as it is expected to encounter wild Amazonian animals such as tanagers, toucans, macaws, parrots, egrets, hoatzins, herons, hummingbirds, brilliant blue morphos butterflies, red howler, tamarin, capuchin and squirrel monkeys, three-toed sloths, giant river otters, manatees and turtles. The primeval forest also boasts abundant flora, including a variety of orchids, untold species of plants and unique trees, like the giant ceiba.

Promperu Launches New Central Birding Route

Adding to the current variety of bird-watching treks in Peru, PromPeru has launched a new **Central Birding Route** in the country, opening the region for enthusiasts to view more fascinating endemic bird species in Peru. The new route is open year round, but in order to avoid the rainy season the best time to visit is from April until November.

The Central Birding Route is an experience filled with contrast. It begins in the coastal region of Lima, which includes wetlands and of course the Pacific Ocean. The main part is the central highway, with dramatic passes through the western Andes and mostly dry habitats. The route then descends down the eastern slope of the Andes, where the habitat is much more humid than the western side and ends in the breathtaking wet evergreen forest of the Amazon.

Peru is one of the top places in the world to spot rare and beautiful birds. It is a hotspot for bird lovers and even non-bird lovers will be fascinated by the feathered friends.



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PERU TOURISM FACT SHEET

Location:

Peru is located in the central western portion of South America. It covers 1.285 million square kilometers and is South America's third largest country, and the 20th largest nation in the world. Its total surface equals the combined areas of Portugal, Spain, France, Switzerland, Austria, Holland and Belgium. It borders to the north with Ecuador and Colombia, to the south with Chile and Bolivia, to the east with Brazil and to the west with the Pacific Ocean.

Time Zone:

GMT/UTC -5 (same as Eastern Standard Time in the US)

Capital:

Lima

Population:

Peru's population is approximately 28 million of which 72% live in the city and 28% in the countryside.

Languages:

Peru's many languages co-exist and are proof of the nation's diverse cultural heritage. Spanish and Quechua (the language of the Incas) are the nation's official languages although Spanish is much more widespread. Forty-nine other indigenous languages are also recognized by the Peruvian State. English is used widely by travel service providers.

Geography:

Peru is comprised of three major regions: The Coast, Andean Highlands and Amazon Jungle.

The Coast: Peru's coastal band is a long stretch along the western slopes of the Andes, a 2500 kilometer long strip bathed by the Pacific Ocean where deserts are interspersed with beautiful beaches and lush agricultural oases. Summer stretches from December to March when temperatures reach 27°C (80°F) on average, while winter (May to October) may fall to a mild 12°C (53°F). Although it rarely rains, mist and drizzle are usual in winter, especially in Lima. The sun shines 365 days a year over Peru's northern coastal tip, with temperatures reaching 35°C (95°F). The cities of Lima, Trujillo and Chiclayo as well as the Nasca Lines, Puerto Inca and Lagunas de Mejia National Sanctuary are in this region among other attractions.

The Highlands: The proper name for the Andes mountain range, the Highlands are made up by a mountain backbone that runs from south to north creating the Pacific-Amazon divide. Weather in the Highlands is dry and mild, with a well defined dry season (May to October) when days are sunny, nights chilly and rain scarce, making it the ideal time of the year for visiting. Dramatic temperature changes—with fluctuations ranging from 2°C (35°F) to 20°C (68°F) in one single day—are usual in the Highlands. The cities of Cajamarca, Huancayo and Cuzco as well as Machu Picchu, Chavin de Huantar and Ishinca Mountain are in this region among other attractions.

The Jungle: A region of lush tropical vegetation, the Peruvian Amazon area includes the nation's largest natural reserves. Its humid and tropical climate comprises two clear seasons, the dry (May to October) period when rivers flow low, days are sunny and temperatures exceed 30°C (86°F) and the rainy season (November to April) of frequent downpours and large river flows. The Jungle is home to more than 1,000 indigenous communities that have managed to preserve their traditional customs, traditions and languages. The cities of Iquitos, Pucallpa and Puerto Maldonado, as well as the Amazon River and the Manu National Park are in this region among other attractions.

Biodiversity

The Amazon jungle represents 60% of the territory in Peru.

84 of the 104 existing life zones in the world can be found in Peru.

15% of the territory is a nature protected area.

Peru is home to the 2 deepest canyons in the world, the Colca and the Cotahuasi, both in Arequipa.

Peru is a paradise for birdwatchers with the 2nd highest number of bird species in the world (1,810) of which 117 are endemic.

Peru is home to the Amazon River, the mightiest river in the world.

Gocta, the third highest waterfall in the world, is located in the Peruvian Amazonas region.

Peru has 3,000 types of orchids, and Inkaterra Resort in Machu Picchu has the largest concentration of orchid species in their natural climate world-wide.

Heritage:

Peru is home to 10 sites inscribed by UNESCO as World Heritage Sites: the Chan Chan Metropolis, Chavin of Huantar, the city of Cusco, Huascarán National Park, the city of Lima, Nazca Lines, Manu National Park, Machu Picchu Historical Sanctuary and the National Park Abiseo River.

Caral, Peru is also the oldest city in South America (the third oldest civilization in the world).

Cuisine:

Lima was recently recognized by Bon Appétit Magazine as the "Culinary Destination of the Year."

Over 40,000 restaurants across the country reflect the diversity of a nation that has mixed its native traditions with the cuisines of Europe, Arabia, China, Africa and Japan offering visitors unique flavors that make Peruvian cuisine one of the best and most varied in the world.

Peru boasts one of the most exquisite culinary offerings in Latin America. The cuisine is as flavorful and diverse as the country itself, utilizing ingredients from Peru's biodiversity and varied geography. Rare and varied spices, aromatic herbs, succulent fruit, fresh meat and seafood are among the elements that have helped to make Peruvian cuisine one of the most unique in the world.

One of the great secrets to Peruvian cooking is the ability to absorb the many different culinary traditions and to add a touch of Peru's own natural and cultural wealth.

Accommodations: Peru has over 7,068 properties offering 113,672 rooms.

Peru has 27 five-star hotels, 24 four-star hotels and more than 460 three-star hotels.

As an example of Peru's high quality accommodations, Hotel Monasterio in Cuzco was named "Best in South America" by *Conde Nast* Traveler's Readers' Choice Awards in 2005 and was listed on *Conde Nast* Traveler's 2009 "Gold List."

**Airports/
Accessibility:**

Peru has 36 airports equipped to receive commercial flights and 9 ready for international flights, including Lima and Iquitos.

19 airlines operate international flights to and from Peru including Copa, Continental, American Airlines, LanChile, LanPeru and Avianca, and 7 airlines offer domestic flights within the country.

American Airlines, LAN Airlines, and numerous regional airlines fly direct and non-stop from multiple US gateways.

Peru is 5 hour flight from Miami, and 8 from New York and Los Angeles.

Peru has 7 domestic airlines for internal commute.

Peru has recently invested over \$3.1 Million in renovations for its international airport in Lima, Peru.

Airport taxes: There is a US\$32 (about 105 PEN) airport tax that you must pay when leaving the country and a US\$6 (about 20 PEN) airport tax for all national flights.

Checking luggage: Please note that if you will be taking an international flight that has one or more connections within Peru, it will be necessary to collect any checked bags at the airport where you first arrive in the country. After proceeding through Customs, you will have to recheck your luggage before flying on to your final destination.

Passport/Visas: Visitors to Peru need a valid passport.

Visitors from North America do not need tourist visas.

More information is available from Peruvian diplomatic representatives in each country. Addresses and telephone numbers are available at the Peruvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs' web page www.rree.gob.pe

Customs: Visitors to Peru may bring with them a number of personal goods free of taxes, including clothing and accessories, a portable musical instrument, three liters of alcoholic beverages, and gifts for a maximum value of US\$3,000 and individual values not exceeding US\$100.

Sports gear for adventure tourism (hang-gliding, mountaineering, kayaking, fishing, scuba diving, water skiing, windsurfing and others) and scientific equipment for plant and animal life research are also allowed free of taxes into Peru.

Currency: Peru's national currency is the "nuevo sol (S/.)" divided into 100 cents. Coins worth 5, 10, 20 and 50 cents, and 1, 2 and 5 soles are in circulation, as well as 10, 20, 50, 100 and 200 nuevo sol bills.

Currency can be exchanged at all banks and exchange houses, and at most hotels, restaurants and shops. Major credit cards (Visa, Master Card, Diners and American Express) are accepted at most commercial establishments and ATMs are also available.

- Personal Funds:** It is best to bring a Visa or MasterCard credit card for withdrawing cash advances from automated teller machines (ATMs), which are readily available in Iquitos.
- Many businesses in Iquitos will also accept credit card payment. Alternatively, you can bring US dollars for exchange, but they MUST be in good condition without any tears or damage. The 100 dollar bills with a CB issue are not accepted.
- Communications:** Peru is served by a wide domestic and international network of private and pay phones. Country and city codes are posted on most telephone booths. For international calls dial 00 + country code + city code + telephone number. For local domestic long distance calls, dial 0 + city code + telephone number. Public (pay) phones accept coins and calling cards sold at kiosks and supermarkets. Directory service (in Spanish) is available by dialing 103.
- Internet:** Internet kiosks operate in most cities around Peru. Usually known as Internet cabins, they offer Internet connection for an average S/3.5(US\$1)/hour.
- Electricity:** 220 volts but most four/five star hotels also have installed 110 volt power outlets.
- Immunizations:** No specific immunization restrictions apply for visits to Peru. It is however advised to get a yellow fever vaccine 10 days before visiting certain Amazon rainforest areas. Visit www.cdc.gov/travel for more information.
- Information:** For more information about planning a visit to Peru, visit www.peru.info.

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MAJOR EVENTS & CULTURAL FESTIVITIES

FEBRUARY – MAY 2009

FEBRUARY

Highlights:

Virgen de la Candelaria

Location: Puno

Date: February 1 - 14

Useful Information:

Climate: dry and cold.

Average temperature: 10°C (50°F). During 18 days the city of Puno, on the shores of lake Titicaca, becomes the folklore capital of the Americas.



Fiesta de la Candelaria, Puno
Archivo PromPerú

Description:

On the central day, the Virgin parades the city in a colorful procession, followed by more than 200 bands of musicians and a similar number of groups who dance around the city and compete for prizes in the local stadium. The festivity is related to the pre-Hispanic farming cycles of planting and harvesting (worshipping Pachamama or Mother Earth), as well as with the region's mining activity

How to Get There:

By plane: from Lima and Arequipa to Juliaca (Puno).

By train: Cusco - Puno train (10 h).

By road: from Cusco, Arequipa and Lima.

Carnivals

Location: All over Peru

Date: February / March

Peruvian carnivals are marked by the festive character of Andean areas, which regularly break with their solemn traditions.

Beyond regional variations, a common characteristic of nearly the entire highland chain is the ritual of the *yunza*, called *umisha* in the jungle and *cortamonte* on the coast. It involves artificially planting a tree trunk laden with gifts, around which the guests dance until it is chopped with a machete or an ax. The couple who make the final hack that brings down the tree will then both be in charge of organizing the *yunza* next year. Peruvians across the country are extremely fond of tossing buckets of water at each other during this festival, so onlookers would be wise to take precautions. Cities where carnivals reach a high point include Cajamarca, Puno and Ayacucho.



Carnivals, Cuzco
Mylene D'Auriol / PromPerú

Others Festivities:



Chachapoyan Carnival February – March

Province of Chachapoyas, Amazonas

It is a mixture of Celendinas and Chachapoyan customs. It is celebrated with the planting of "Humishas", large trees decorated with balloons, streamers, clothing, and other objects. In addition, there is a float contest, a carnival queen election, social and popular dancing, and games with water, streamers, and colors.



Carnival of Abancay and Apurimac February – March

Apurimac

During the celebrations, the *Pandillas* (folklore groups) show their colorful costumes and dance to the music. The carnival also features ceremonies in honor of the *Pachamama* (Mother Earth), the "Corte de la Yunsa" (the chopping of a tree full of presents to the rhythm of the music), and the Carnival of Tica-Pallana or flowers picking



Carnival Festival of Camaná

February - March

Province of Camaná, District of San José, Arequipa

The guachanacos (masked riders) ride through the city streets three days before, inviting the population to join the carnival festivities. The "yunsa" or "cortamonte" festivity happens on the main day of the celebration. On that day, you can enjoy the wonderful dishes of this place.



Ayacucho Carnival

February - March

Ayacucho

For three days, enjoy the parade composed of marchers wearing traditional dress, regional music, food testing like the traditional puchero and chicha de jora.



Cajamarca Carnival

February - March (variable)

Province of Cajamarca, District of Cajamarca and its surrounding areas.

This is one of the most important celebrations in the department. Every neighborhood prepares itself for different contests like dance and music. The people organize a parade and accompany the Momo King, while other groups simultaneously dance and sing, spreading joy through the streets. The nights are the time to crown queens, to see popular dancing, and to taste traditional food and drink. This celebration lasts for one month with eight main days.



Negro Summer Festival

February

Province of Chíncha, District of El Carmen Ica

This is an Afro-Peruvian dance contest. There are also craft, wine and food fairs as well as main street parades.



Huanchaco Carnival February

Province of Trujillo, District of Huanchaco La Libertad

The Huanchaco Carnival originated at the beginning of the twentieth century, inspired by the Venice Carnival. The tradition was updated twenty years ago, and today the celebration includes the election of the Carnival Queen, floats, parades, people in costumes, carnival dances, and contests.



Toqto Fights 2nd February

*Province of Chumbivilcas, District of Livitaca
(Toctopata) Cusco*

These take place in Toqto, a town located between the Districts of Yanaoca and Livitaca. The fights last three days and represent the past when the people fought to receive more land. On the first day, people settle down in the place; the second day, one-on-one fights begin, and later, groups of five to ten men are formed. After eating and drinking, everyone fights on the third day, and when the games end, the wounded are taken care of and the communities perform the qhaswa (a party for both winners and losers)



Madre de Dios Carnival February (variable dates)

The entire department Madre de Dios

There are parades that move along the main streets of the city, marching contests, a beauty queen contest, and the election of Miss Manguare and King Momo.



Ucayali Carnival February – March

*Province of Coronel Portillo, Districts of Calleria and
Yarinacocha Ucayali*

There are dance contests around the humisha or cortamonte. A carnival queen is chosen, and there is a parade with traditional marching contests and floats.

MARCH

Highlights:

Wine Festival

Location: Ica

Date: March (2nd week)

This festival is a celebration of the abundance of grapes and wine in the region of Ica (a four-hour drive south of Lima), where persevering efforts in local vineyards have spread greenery across vast tracts of once bone-dry desert.



Grapes, Ica
Aníbal Solimano / PromPerú

The Wine Festival (Festival de la Vendimia) involves fairs, competitions, processions of floats, musical festivals and parties where guests dance the Afro-Peruvian festejo.

One of the major attractions of the event is the Queen of the Wine Festival beauty pageant. Accompanied by her hand-maidens, the beauty queen treads grapes in a vat in the time-honored tradition to extract the juice that will eventually be fermented. Apart from the delicious local sweets known as tejas, made from pecans or candied fruits, filled with caramel and covered with sugar icing, those attending the event can try pisco, the aromatic and tasty grape brandy that originated in this part of southern Peru four centuries ago.

Crosses of Porcon

Location: Granja Porcón, north of Cajamarca

Date: March - April

Useful Information:

Climate: dry and mild.

Average temperature: 14°C (57°F).

Description:

In this festivity, immense reed and palm crosses parade the Porcón valley. They are all decorated with oval and round mirrors (representing the souls of the dead) and with images of Virgin Mary, the Sacred Heart and several saints. On Palm Sunday, the central day, crosses are crowned, prayers are sung in Quechua and Latin, and people march in procession to church. During the procession, "angels" haul the "señorca", a female donkey representing the triumphal entrance of Jesus in Jerusalem. By road: Granja Porcón, 30 km / 19 miles (55 min) from Cajamarca. By the road to Bambamarca, take detour at km 20.



Crosses of Porcon, Cajamarca
Archivo PromPerú

How to Get There:

By road: Granja Porcón, 30 km / 19 miles (55 min) from Cajamarca

By the road to Bambamarca, take detour at km 20.

Easter Festival

Location: Ayacucho

Date: March - April

Useful Information:

Climate: mild.

Average temperature: 17°C (63°F).



Easter Week, Ayacucho
Domingo Giribaldi / PromPerú

Description:

With its 33 churches, Ayacucho presents on this date the most fervent Andean staging of the Way of the Cross, with several daily processions on the city's streets. At dawn Christ Resurrected leaves the cathedral, a moment that the faithful wait for after a night-long wake around bonfires they light in the Main Square to fight the cold. They all carry the Lord in joy on a wax portable altar.

How to Get There:

By plane: daily flights Lima - Ayacucho (45 min).

By road: Ayacucho, 500 km / 311 miles southeast of Lima, by Los Libertadores road.

Other Festivities:



Wine Grape Festival March

Provinces of Chincha and Ica

This is a celebration of the grape harvest and the wine making in the department. Fairs, contests, parades with floats, musical festivals, and parties are organized. The Wine Grape Queen is chosen, and she is the first to start crushing the grapes that make the wines, piscos, and other liquors.



Surfing Championship March

Province of Ascope, District of Chicama La Libertad

It takes place in Malabrigo Beach (also known as Chicama Beach) and surfers from all over the world participate. This beach is worldwide famous for the largest left handed wave in the world.



Saint Joseph Festival March

*Province of Trujillo, District of Moche, Las Delicias
Beach Resort La Libertad*

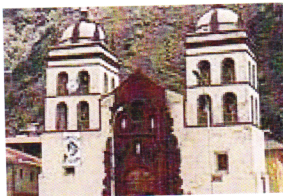
Emulating Spanish traditions, these festivities feature typical Spanish dishes and drinks, people dress up and the streets and houses are decorated in the Spanish style. Besides processions of Peruvian Paso horses, heifers freed like in Pamplona, a bull festival, and a bull fight, tascas (bars), tunas (musical groups), and tablaos (Flemish dances) are organized.



Wine Grape Harvest Festival March

Lima

This takes place in the traditional district of Santiago de Surco and includes activities like the election of a Harvest Queen and visits to wineries for wine-testing sessions.



Holy Week March – April

*Province of Huancavelica, District of Huancavelica
Huancavelica*

The celebration begins with the procession of the Sorrowful Virgin on Friday followed by the Palm Sunday mass and massive nightly processions for personal reflection.



Easter in Ica March - April

Ica

This festival starts on Palm Sunday with the procession of the Lord of the Triumph and ends with the resurrection procession, also known as "The Drunken Procession". The streets are decorated with flower carpets and triumphal arches.



Holy Week

March - April (variable date)

Province of Tarma and Valle del Mantaro. Junín

During this celebration week, the communities create flower carpets that cover the city streets and organize liturgical ceremonies and processions with Andean characteristics



Holy Week - Expo Oxa

March - April (variable date)

Province of Oxapampa Pasco

Holy Week is the time chosen by the descendents of the Austrian-German settlers to organize parties with samples of food and dances brought over from Europe at the beginning of the twentieth century. Additionally, farming and handcrafted product exhibitions take place as well as drawing and painting competitions.

APRIL

Highlights:

Peruvian Paso Horse Festival

Location: Lima

Date: April - May

Useful Information:

Location: Mamacona, district of Pachacámac (75 masl / 246 fasl).

Climate: humid and warm.

Average temperature: 19°C (66°F)

Description:

The contest takes place in Mamacona, at the foot of the pre-Inca Pachacamac oracle. The Peruvian Paso horse is a breed of Spanish and Berber races that took 300 years. Its gait is a series of synchronized movements of the front and rear legs in parallel fashion, a trait that has made it one of the most beautiful and elegant horses in the world.

How to Get There:

By road: Pachacámac, 30 km / 19 miles south of Lima, in the detour to Lurín, south highway.

Other Festivities:



Anniversary of the Constitutional Province of Callao **April 22nd**

On this date, the people commemorate the naming of Callao as a Constitutional Province in 1857. A series of activities like tourist rides, a painting contest, historical expositions, Te Deum Mass, civic-patriotic ceremonies, parades, and many others take place in order to celebrate this anniversary.



Anniversary of the Founding of the city of Huamanga **April 25th**

Province of Huamanga, District of Ayacucho

Cultural activities, sporting events, contests, handicrafts expositions, and testing of typical dishes are featured.

MAY

Highlights:

Virgen de Chapi

Location: Arequipa Region

Date: May 1

Useful Information:

Climate: dry and semi-cold.

Average temperature: 14°C (57°F).

Description:

Pilgrimage crossing the Arequipa desert to worship the Virgin of Purification or Virgin of Chapi. The pilgrims carry rocks of different sizes they will leave before Chapi, making the so-called apachetas, symbolizing the devout's sins. In a night-long wake, the image of the miraculous Virgin is surrounded by candles to then leave in procession. There are also fireworks and typical foods.

How To Get There:

By road: Chapi, 76 km / 47 miles southeast of Arequipa. There is bus access, but some pilgrims prefer to go on foot (1 hour walk approx.)

Lord of Muruhuay

Location: Junín Region

Date: May

Useful Information:

Location: Shalacoto hill (2959 masl / 9708 fasl),
Acobamba,
12 km from Tarma.
Climate: mild.
Average temperature: 14°C (57°F).



Chonginada, Junín
Aníbal Solimano / PromPerú

Description:

The image of the Crucified Lord, painted on the skirts of the Shalacoto hill, is worshipped on this date by thousands of pilgrims. Some old rites to worship water, earth and rocks have survived in this celebration. On the central day a solemn Mass is celebrated in Quechua and then the believers drop their "Letter to God", requesting miracles or thanking favors granted. The organizers usually offer a typical lunch to visitors and dancers.

How to Get There:

By road: by the Central Highway following the Lima - Tíclio - Huancayo route (310 km / 193 miles), in 5:30 h.

Other Festivities:



Festival of the Crosses

May

Province of Pasco and Daniel A. Carrion Pasco

A religious festival dating back to the Vice Royal Period organized by the so-called Majordomos (masters of ceremonies in charge of organizing and managing the feast). People go out on the streets performing old dances like the Chunguinada, the Baile Viejo or the Negreria.



Festival of the Crosses and Avocado Festival

May 3

Province of Huanta, District of Luricocha. Ayacucho

This celebration is very distinctive since hundreds of people from towns all over the Andes and the jungle show up carrying crosses of differing sizes and weights. The people carry their crosses and participate in a race around the perimeter of the Main Square of Luricocha (beginning and ending at the church). The area is also famous for its 42 different species of avocados.